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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

As indicated in section III of the present statement, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1, requirements of $187,700 would arise under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/206 of 18 December 1998, decided that a provision of $86,200,000 should be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for special political missions. Should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1, the estimated requirements of $187,700 would be charged against the $86.2 million provision (which is equivalent to $90,387,200 after recosting) proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, the General Assembly authorized provisions for additional staff for 1992 and 1993 in support of the Central American peace process pursuant to resolutions 46/109 A of 17 December 1991 and 47/118 of 18 December 1992, respectively. Reflecting the expanded support activities required under its resolutions 48/161 of 20 December 1993 and 49/137 of 19 December 1994, the Assembly authorized for 1995 the continuation of that provision for the additional staff. In view of the continued support activities required under its resolutions 50/132 of 20 December 1995 and 51/198 B of 27 March 1997, the Assembly authorized in 1996 and 1997 the continuation of those provisions for additional staff approved in 1995. In the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/176 of 18 December 1997, the Assembly authorized the provision of resources for two staff (one at the P-4 level and one at the General Service level) for 1998. The extension of those resources through 1999 was authorized by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 53/94 of 7 December 1998. The current proposals reflect the maintenance in 2000 of those resources authorized for 1999.

II. Draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. By operative paragraphs 7 and 14 of draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General, the bodies and programmes of the United Nations system and the international community to continue to support and verify in Guatemala the implementation of all the peace agreements signed under United Nations auspices, compliance with which was an essential condition for a firm and lasting peace in that country;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the implementation of a new, comprehensive sustainable development programme and the initiative to establish the Central American Union, emphasizing, *inter alia*, the potential repercussions of natural disasters, in particular of hurricane Mitch, for the peace processes and the vulnerable economies of the region, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the proposed request to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

3. The above request relates to subprogramme 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.[1]

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would, with respect to the requests outlined in paragraph 2 above:

(a) Continue to provide good offices, as required, as well as substantive support and political guidance to the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) in the fulfilment of its mandate;

(b) Continue the provision of verification and good offices functions in the implementation of pending issues of the peace agenda in El Salvador in full cooperation with the United Nations resident coordinator for El Salvador, who is also the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the area;

(c) Continue to lend full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly in their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the implementation of a new, comprehensive sustainable development programme and the initiative to establish the Central American Union.

D. Requirements at full cost

5. The destruction caused by hurricane Mitch in October 1998 required a comprehensive approach to recovery so as to address the underlying structural problems that exacerbated the impact of that natural disaster. As part of an inter-agency task force, the United Nations will continue to follow this process closely to ensure that the reconstruction/transformation efforts after Mitch contribute to the consolidation of peace and development in the Central American region.

6. The peace agreements signed in Guatemala in 1996 provided the basis for a multifaceted mandate entrusted by the General Assembly to MINUGUA, namely: verification, good offices, advisory services and public information. MINUGUA has also played a leading role, together with the other parts of the United Nations system and the international community at large, in a multifaceted exercise in peace-building. Important challenges still lie ahead, complicated by the delays suffered in implementation of the third phase contemplated in the peace agreements as well as by the fact that a new Government will take office in January 2000.

7. In El Salvador, the United Nations remains committed to the consolidation of the peace-building process, in full cooperation with UNDP in its task of assisting the Government of El Salvador in the final implementation of the pending issues of the 1992 peace agreements.

8. It is anticipated that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, adequate support for all the above aspects of the efforts of the Secretary-General in Central America should be provided. This would require the continuation in 2000 of the provision of related resources equivalent to one staff member at the P-4 level, for a Political Affairs Officer, and one staff member at the General Service level.

9. The Political Affairs Officer (P-4) would be assigned primarily to monitor the peace process and significant political developments in Guatemala and to provide backstopping and political guidance to the post-conflict peace-building activities of MINUGUA. Regarding El Salvador, the Officer will assist in the joint UNDP/United Nations follow-up programme to ensure compliance with the provisions of the 1992 peace agreement with regard to the remaining issues from that agreement. He/she will follow developments in the region as a whole. When necessary, the Officer will attend the United Nations inter-agency task force for the reconstruction and transformation of Central America and will coordinate activities with field offices of the United Nations system. He/she would also brief and disseminate information to missions, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations currently interested in the peace process in Central America.

10. The estimated costs related to the salaries and common staff costs of the staff indicated in paragraph 8 above would amount to $187,700.

III. Action required from the General Assembly

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/206 of 18 December 1998, decided that a provision of $86,200,000 should be included for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved during the course of the biennium 2000-2001. Provisions for such missions had previously been included in the budget section for peacekeeping operations. They are now included in the budget section for political affairs to reflect the responsibility of the substantive department concerned and to be fully consistent with the structure of the medium-term plan. As indicated in table 3.23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[2] the provision of $86,200,000, after recosting, is equivalent to $90,387,200. As described in paragraph 3.89 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the utilization of the amount would be subject to individual legislative mandates and approval by the General Assembly as and when the Security Council and/or the General Assembly established or renewed the mandates of such missions.

12. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/54/L.24/Rev.1, the requirements of $187,700 would be charged against the provision of $90,387,200 for special political missions requested in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/53/6/Rev.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 36th meeting, on 19 November 1999, the Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1. A statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee in document A/C.6/54/L.21.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. By operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide, without prejudice to any future decision, that the next session of the International Law Commission will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 May to 9 June and from 10 July to 18 August 2000;

(b) Request the Commission to implement arrangements in accordance with paragraph 639 of its report.[1]

B. Background

3. Pursuant to the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/206 of 18 December 1998, the International Law Commission examined the advantages and disadvantages of holding split sessions as of 2000. The Commission, at its fifty-first session, expressed the view that a split session would allow intra-sessional preparation to be carried out in a way that would make the second part of a split session more productive and cited several examples to support that view.[2]

4. The Commission also expressed the view that splitting the session would increase attendance and thus contribute to the original benefit perceived to flow from the nature of the Commission as a non-full-time responsibility for the members, and that past experience in 1998 with a split session supported that view.[3]

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5. The Commission pointed out that any cost increase flowing from a split session should be more than offset, by way of results-based analysis, by increased productivity and that cost savings could be achieved by reorganizing the work programme of a split session, so that one or two weeks at the end of the first part of the session and/or the beginning of the second part of the session could be devoted exclusively to the meetings requiring the attendance of limited numbers of members of the Commission. It also stated that it would put such arrangements into effect in 2000.[4]

C. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

6. The request of the General Assembly mentioned in paragraph 2 above relates to activities in subprogramme 4.3, Progressive development and codification of international law, of programme 4, Legal affairs, and to programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and Conference Services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,[5] and to section 8, Legal affairs, and section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[6] No modifications to those programmes would be necessary as a result of the activities requested in the draft resolution.

D. Additional requirements for the biennium 2000-2001

7. A provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the convening of two 12-week sessions at Geneva, one session in 2000 and one in 2001. The requirements for honoraria and travel for members of the Commission and for travel of Secretariat staff for the two 12-week sessions at Geneva were estimated at $1,961,200.

8. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Commission would hold a 12-week split session at Geneva from 1 May to 9 June and from 10 July to 18 August 2000. The holding of a split session would result in additional costs for travel of the Chairman and members of the Commission ($90,000) and travel and subsistence for members of the Secretariat ($15,200).

E. Potential for absorption

9. Substantive servicing of two 12-week sessions of the International Law Commission has been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. There is no provision, however, for the additional requirements related to the convening of two split sessions.

10. With regard to conference-servicing requirements, the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 includes provision, not only for meetings already in the calendar of conferences, but also for meetings to be added at a subsequent stage by decision of the General Assembly, provided that the number and distribution of meetings is consistent with the pattern in previous years. On this basis, it is anticipated that no additional resources would be required for the provision of conference services for the Commission.

F. Contingency fund

11. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if proposed additional expenditures exceed resources available from the contingency fund those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of projected activities. Otherwise such additional activities will have to be deferred until a subsequent biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

G. Summary

12. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1, an additional amount of $105,200 would be required under section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10* and corrigenda (A/54/10 and Corr.1 and 2)

[2] Ibid., para. 636

[3] Ibid., para. 637

[4] Ibid., para. 639

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Year, Supplement No. 6* (A/53/6/Rev.1)

[6] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vol. II

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Right of peoples to self-determination

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II contained in the report of the Third Committee on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/54/604)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. At its 48th meeting, on 16 November 1999, the Third Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination", as contained in section III of its report on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/54/604). At the time of adoption of the draft resolution, the Third Committee was provided with a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.3/54/L.90).

2. Operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

...

"11. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to be programmed in its immediate activities, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right to self-

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determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Governments to make proposals towards a clearer legal definition of mercenaries, and, in this regard, requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene expert meetings, as requested in previous General Assembly resolutions, to study and update the international legislation in force and to propose recommendations for a clearer legal definition of mercenaries that would make for more efficient prevention and punishment of mercenary activities."

B. Relationship of requests to the programme of work

3. The activities referred to above fall under programme 19 (Human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001[1] and subprogramme 3 (Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities) of section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[2]

4. In order to reflect the provisions of the resolution, the narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 would be modified as follows:

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities

Outputs for 2000-2001

Paragraph 22.79.[2]

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings

Add: d. Annual expert meetings to study and update the international legislation in force and to propose recommendations for a clearer legal definition of mercenaries.

(b) Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

(iii) Non-recurrent publications

Add: one study on the international legislation in force, including recommendations for a clearer legal definition of mercenaries.

(d) Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

(i) Advisory services

Add: and including advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

5. During the biennium 2000-2001, it is anticipated that:

(a) The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would issue a booklet on the question of the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the

right to self-determination. The booklet would be prepared by a consultant, edited, translated and published in the six official languages of the Organization;

(b) Two expert meetings would be convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva for a period of five working days each to study and update the international legislation in force and to propose recommendations for a clearer legal definition of mercenaries that would make for more efficient prevention and punishment of mercenary activities. A total of 10 academic experts would be invited to each meeting.

D. Additional requirements

6. The implementation of the requests contained in the draft resolution would entail the following requirements for the biennium 2000-2001:

	United States dollars (2000-2001)
Section 22. Human rights	
General temporary assistance	
3 work-months at P-3 level	31 000
3 work-months at GS-Other level	23 100
Consultants	
One consultant for 2 work-months	25 000
Travel of representatives	
20 academic experts from different regions (travel and daily subsistence allowance)	105 500
Total	**184 600**
Section 2. General Assembly Affairs and conference services (Geneva)	
Meeting services requirements (5 days, 10 meetings annually)	65 600
Pre-session documentation (20 documents, 300 pages)	220 600
In-session documentation (10 documents, 100 pages)	74 400
Post-session documentation (10 documents, 100 pages)	74 400
Total (at full cost)	**435 000**

E. Potential for absorption

7. No provision was included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the travel and daily subsistence allowance of the experts or for general temporary assistance and consultant services.

8. The estimates of US$ 435,000, at full cost, for the conference-servicing costs are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity included under section 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The extent to which the Organization's permanent conference-servicing capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000-2001. Provision has, however, been included under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, not only for meetings programmed at the time of preparation of the budget but also for meetings which might be authorized subsequently provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. As a result, no additional appropriation would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

F. Contingency fund

9. As indicated in paragraph 7 above, no resources have been included under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to cover the additional requirements of $184,600 arising from the draft resolution.

10. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

11. No activities could be identified, at this stage, for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 in order to accommodate the additional requirements of $184,600 referred to above.

12. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Third Committee in its report on the right of peoples to self-determination (A/54/604), an additional provision of $184,600 would be required over and above the resources included in section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and as such would require a related additional appropriation.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/53/6/Rev.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vol. III.